

New York, 31 July 1849.

My dear friend - I returned to the City yesterday, rather stronger I venture to hope, but still not in comfortable condition, & continually subject to those gastric derangements of which so very many are complaining - I am heartily thankful that our neighbourhood has not been visited by this fearful pestilence - Last week, at W. Chester, I received a charming letter from your dear little wife (date from Hitchfield, 14 Inst.) & I regret to find, what I was however prepared to hear, that she has not made any great improvement. I earnestly hope that her trip may prove beneficial, & beg you to give my best love, & thanks for her interesting letter, on her return home - which, she tells me, is to be early in the ensuing month - Her renewed, & most kind invitation to Cambridge I must decline for the present, as I am not man enough to meet the "Scientifics", being still feeble & low in spirits - Added to this, I am under an absolute engagement to spend a few days with our good Torrey - whom I have just

written to, with a view to ascertain his plans & movements, whether he proposes to visit Cambridge at the Scientific Meeting - If he does not, I shall probably go on to Princeton in 2 or 3 days -

I am particularly pleased to hear of the happy consummation of dear Lizzie's hopes, & beg you to offer to her & Wm my sincere congratulations. I should entrust this to your better half, but it may be some weeks before I have an opportunity of writing to her.

Of course, I have no news for you, botanical or otherwise - I was too feeble to collect about Wellfleet, nor was there, indeed, any thing of which we stand in need - *Scirpus Olneyi* is the plant about W. Chester creek, & takes the ordinary place of *S. pungens*, which I did not observe - My son made me a flying visit, on his way up the Hudson, & said that Dr. Alexander had, at length, turned up, but that he only spent 2 or 3 days about Cambridge, having determined upon making Phil.<sup>a</sup> his head-quarters this season. John took him to the best botanical localities & he collected some 30 or 40 sp. which were new to him -

I am sorry to hear that Joe has been poorly - beg my regards to him, if returned from Saugus.

And now, my dear pray, I shall only further remark, that should time & inclination serve at any time to write to me - it is probable that the present needy condition of ~~the~~ <sup>his</sup> ~~Holmes~~ might assist us in procuring a dispensation, on reasonable terms, from your path (?) now on the subject - I do not, certainly, mean it to be inferred that this letter needs answering, it being merely designed to inform you, that I am again in N.Y. - rather better in health - & as usual

Very affec<sup>y</sup> Yrs. Geo. Carey

I find you have Oakes' plants for distribution & sale - What will a complete set of the Mosses come at - in raised numbers? also of the lichenes? Did my little package turn up? It contained (inter alia) some of the W. Pat. Agrostes, & some Carexes - Amongst them, I think, C. procaea - I mention these to identify the lot, which your O. said he had laid out for me - Will the library & microscope come thro' your hands? Any or all of these queries may be answered at your entire

convenience, but should you write before you  
hear from me again, address Care of C. H.:  
(not to Jane St.) as my letters will be forwarded from  
Pine St. should I be in New Jersey. I dieu! I should  
like to hear your personal news - plans, &c.,  
so written that I could read it!



Prof. A. Gray

Cambridge

Massachusetts.

